Damage to Tobacco Crop in West Godavari District

2159. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has assessed the damage to the tobacco crop in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh this year;

(b) if so, the findings of the Tobacco Board;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board has recommended any financial assistance to tobacco farmers of West Godavari; and

(d) if so, the actual assistance that has reached the farmers this year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Tobacco Board has estiamted that in about 12391 hectares of area, 50% or more of the tobacco crop was affected by a fungal disease viz. "Brown Spot Disease"

(c) and (d) Tobacco Board made an assessment of the damage on account of "Brown Spot Disease" and submitted an authorised grower wise list to the respective District Collectors for necessary action. Tobacco Board also made arrangements to supply pesticides to the growers on credit basis under tie-up arrangements with local pesticide distributors. No financial assistance has been extended by Tobacco Board.

Export Promotion Council for Tourism Industry

2160. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the news-item in 'the Economic Times' dated the 12th May, 1998 captioned "Export Promotion Council for Tourism Industry on Anvil" and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government wants to extend incentive schemes to hotels to earn foreign exchange;

(b) what schemes have Government proposed to enhance foreign exchange earnings from hotels; and

(c) what are the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE); (a) to (c) The Government extends several incentives to hotels for encouraging them to earn foreign exchange. The Income Tax Act, 1961 Section 80 HHD allows fiscal benefits. The hotels earning foreign exchange are also allowed import of several items for their use at the project stage and at the operational stage in the form of project import as well as incentive quota. In the EXIM Policy Zero Duty EPCG Scheme has also been extended to the service sector.

The Government have also liberalised the norms for foreign equity participation in hotels as well as in the matter of obtaining technical collaboration from international agencies etc.

Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty

2161. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have rejected the plea of steel industry for imposition of anti-dumping duty on import of hot rolled coils, sheets, plates and strips from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan;

(b) if so, the reasons as well as the justifications therefor; and

(c) the total quantity of those items imported so far along with the price per tonne?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE); (a) and (b) The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder is continuing investigations into the alleged dumping of hot rolled coils, sheets, plates and strips from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The Designated Authority